

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-41 are pending.

Claims 2 and 42-71 have been cancelled.

Claims 72-77 have been added.

In the Decision on Appeal dated September 25, 2009, the Board found that claim 1 is “open-ended” because it utilizes the transitional phrase “comprising.” Decision on Appeal, at 7. As a result, the Board found that “a contacting surface” means one or more contacting surfaces, and that the claim language “does not explicitly limit the contacting surface or the one or more contacting surfaces to just the edge of each sheet.” *Id.* The Board also found that the claim language does not preclude the contacting surface or the one or more contacting surfaces from including side surfaces of the sheets. *Id.*

To address the findings of the Board, Applicant has amended claim 1 to specifically recite that the adhesive is applied to an edge contacting surface of each of a plurality of sheets of the text body on an individual sheet-wise basis, where the adhesive is applied to the edge contacting surface of each of the plurality of sheets **without applying any adhesive to side surfaces of the corresponding sheet.**

In contrast, Figure 8 of Lawton depicts adhesives 110, 112, and 114 provided at a respective edge and the two side surfaces of each page 102. Lawton, ¶ [0043]. A similar arrangement is depicted in the other figures (including Figures 6, 7, and 9) of Lawton.

Support for the amendment made to claim 1 can be found in Figures 5 and 6 of the present application, which show adhesive 506 or 606 applied to a respective edge 504 or 604 of a respective sheet 502 or 602, with no adhesive applied to side surfaces of each sheet.

In view of the amendments made to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Lawton. The other references cited in the final rejection also do not provide any teaching or hint of the subject matter of claim 1.

Newly added independent claim 73 is allowable for similar reasons as claim 1. Claim 73 recites subject matter similar to claim 1, except “cover” has been replaced with “binding structure.” The term “binding structure” is intended to refer to a cover, an

intermediary piece (*e.g.*, Specification, ¶ [0018]) or to any other structure that is bound to the sheets. Claim 73 is allowable for similar reasons as claim 1.

Dependent claims, including newly added dependent claims 72 and 74-77, are allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims. Moreover, in view of the allowability of base claims, the obviousness rejections of dependent claims have been overcome.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 (200300643-1).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 23, 2009

/Dan C. Hu/

Dan C. Hu
Registration No. 40,025
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
1616 South Voss Road, Suite 750
Houston, TX 77057-2631
Telephone: (713) 468-8880
Facsimile: (713) 468-8883